

**Q. 1. What does the word colour remind the write of?**

**Ans.** The very word colour reminds me of the variety of hue that is Indian life, as various as our own American human scene.

**Q.2. What were the benefits of the English rule ?**

**Ans.** They have put to good used the benefits the English gave and left the unknowledge of the west the pure and exquisitely enunciated English. tongue of men and women educated on both sides of the globe.

**Q.3. Why were the intellectuals in India restless and embittered?**

**Ans.** When that moment comes and how can people learn to govern themselves except by doing it. So the intellectuals in India were restless and embittered.

**Q.4. What was the great lesson that India had to teach the west?**

**Ans.** India has taught humanity a lesson and it is to our peril if we do not learn it. That war and killing achieve nothing but loss and that a noble end is assured only if the means to attain it are of a piece with it and also noble.

**Q.5. Where was the real indictment against the colonisation to be found?**

**Ans.** The real indictment against colonialism, however was to be found in the villages of India.

**Q. 6. Why was the writer moved at the sight of the children of the Indian villages ?**

**Ans.** The children of the Indian villages how they tore at my heart, thin, big bellied, and all with huge sad dark eyes.

## **LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS**

**Q. 1. How does Pearl S. Buck describe Kashmir ?**

**Ans.** In Kashmir where the white barbarian invaders from Europe long ago

penetrated India, the people are often fair, Auburn-haired blue-eyed women are beauties there. A young India friend of mine has recently married a Kashmiri man who though his hair is dark, has eyes of a clear green. The skin colour of the Kashmiri a lovely cream and the features are as classic as the Greek. But all the people of India must be reckoned as belonging to the caucasian race, whatever the colour of the skin in the South, though it be as black as nay African's.

### **Q. 2. How has India influenced the world in the post Independent era?**

**Ans.** The Indians make third group between the south africans and the black and white for that matter there was our Indian family doctor, and why should there have been an Indian doctor in a Chinese port ot tend an American family and rumours of India. Persist, for they are a memorable people, dramatic and passionate and finding dramatic lives. You see how India has a way of permeating human life and consider how India has managed, merely by maintaining her independence and yes by producing superior individuals to influence the world in these few short years of freedom, they have put to good use the benefits the English gave and left the knowledge of west.

### **Q. 3. Why had the Indian intellectuals decided not to support the British in the Second World War.**

**Ans.** The English, they declared had no real purpose to restore India the people. I could believe it fresh as I was from China, where the period of people's tutelage seemed endless and self government further off every year. When you are ready for independence, conquerors have always said to their subjects, etcetera! But who is to decide when that moment comes, and how can people learn to govern themselves expert by doing it? So the intellectuals in India were Restless and embitter as, and I sat for hours watching their flashing dark and hearing the endless flow of language the purest English into which they poured their feelings.

The plants then was that when the second world war broke, India world rebel immediately against England and compel her by this complication to set her free. They would not be forced, as they declared they had been in the First World War, to fight at England's command.

**Q. 4. What lesson had Indian taught the humanity by gainng independence?**

**Ans.** India has managed, merely by maintaining her independence, and yes, by producing superior individuals, to injuence the world in these few short years of freedom, they have put to good use the benefits the English gave and left.

The knowledge of west the pure and exquisitely enuciated English tongue of men and women educated on both sides of the globe-witness Nehru and with him a host of men learning how to govern, and the first women to be the President of the general assembly of the united nations a woman of India and the men in charge of the prisoner exchange in kore a an Indian General, who won trust from all.

**Q.5. What was the Psychological impact of colonisation on Indian people?**

**Ans.** I find that among the many impressions of the India, absorbed while I live among them, and still clear in my mind, is their reverence for great men and women. Leadership in India can only be continued by those whom the followers consider to be good-that is capable of renunciation therefore, not self-seeking. This one quality for them contains all others A person able to renounce personal benefit for the sake of an idealistic and is by that verry fact also honest, also high-minded, therefor also Trustworthy. I felt that the people, even those who know themselves venal and full of faults, searched for such persons.

**Q.6. Who, according to buck, could be the real leaders of Indian people?**

**Ans.** The devotion given nationally to Gandhi and finally even internationally is well known, but I found the same homage paid to local person who in their

measure were also leaders because of their selflessness. Thus I remember a certain Indian village where I had been invited to visit in the home of a family of some modern education though not much, and some means, though not wealth, the house was mud-walled and the roof was made of thatch. Inside were several rooms however, the floors smooth and polished with the usual mixture of cow dung and water.

**Q.7. What are some of the features of Indian Family Life, as noticed by Buck?**

**Ans.** The maturing culture of an organised human family life and profound philosophical religions had shaped his mind and soul, even though he could not read and write. And the children, the littil children of the Indian villages, how they tore of my heart, thin, big belived, and all with huge sad dark eyes. wondered that any Englishmen could look at them and not accuse himself, Three hundred years of English occupation and rule. and could there be children like this? Yes, and Millions of them! And the final indictment surely was that the life span in India was only twenty-seven years. Twenty-seven years! No wonder, Then, that life was hastened, that a men married very youn so that there could be children, as many as possible, before he died.

**Q. 8. Give a portrait of India seen through the writer's eyes.**

**Ans.** In India through a Traveller's Eyes Pearl Buck gives her personal impression of India. On the basis of these impressions a portrait of India flashes before our eyes. This portrait is of India of the nineteen-fifties. Thus it appears idyllic to us. Even for that period the portrait is not very realistic. The writer is a fond lover of India and the Indian people. Thus she sees only bright sides of Indian life. In a sense this was inevitable. Mrs. Buck saw only those things and people that her hosts showed her. The hosts naturally did not show her the seamy sides of the Indian life. So this portrait of India formed through this writer's eyes is very bright. The picture includes scenes

of poverty, disease, starvation and over all economic backwardness of the country. But for all these ills the British rulers are blamed.

The writer begins at a very bright note. She speaks about India's superior individuals who have influenced the course of modern history with their non-violent freedom movement as also by human-faced administration and reconstruction work after independence. She finds that Indian intellectuals have made excellent use of some of the good gifts including the English language that the British rule gave to India. The writer is charmed by quality calibre and self-confidence of the Indian intellectuals. She finds Indian Freedom Movement a rare thing in which the whole people including the intellectuals and the peasants fought hand in hand. And this Freedom Movement was far loftier than the American War of Independence. It was the triumph of a bloodless revolution. Here noble means was used to achieve noble ends. It has great lesson for the world as it shows the futility and destructiveness of movement carried on by violence and blood-shed.

Mrs. Buck gives an impressive picture of Indian village life. Here people live according to great ideals of their tradition. Their conception of goodman is quite lofty. They think only those people good who practise self-renunciation rather than self-seeking. Such people sacrifice their personal good for the sake of noble ideals. Mahatma Gandhi is the supreme example of such great-good man of Indian conception. But all through the country such people are to be found and people flock to them and follow their wise advice-In a village Mrs. Buck finds a paralytic elderly man who for being such a liberated man is surrounded by people all through the day. Despite his suffering, he lives in a cage-like enclosure where people may come unrestricted. All his life he has been a selfless wiseman. Now he has become a saint for the people. In the same way, the writer is impressed by the cleanliness and clean habits of

Indian Villagers. Even the paralytic man was spotlessly clean. In people's homes she found home spun towels to cleanse the hands. The custom of taking food from green banana leaves through the right hand only also convinced Mrs. Buck of the clean habits of the Indian people. Thus the portrait of India seen through Mrs. Buck's eyes is impressive though a bit over-bright. It is not as realistic as E. M. Forster's portrait of India But it has an idyllic charm that is very appealing.

**Q.9. What did Pearl Buck see in India?**

or

**What did Pearl Buck hear from the young intellectuals and the peasants in Indian villages.**

or

**Summarize India Through a Traveller's Eyes.**

or

**Mrs. Buck loves the poorest people living in Indian village because they are wise and innately civilized. Discuss.**

**Ans.** In *India Through a Traveller's Eyes* Pearl Buck gives a moving and somewhat idyllic picture of India. In the authoress's opinion the Indian People as a whole are of the Caucasian race. True there are variations from the white-complexioned and green-eyed Kashmiris to black coloured people of the south. But qualitatively the Indian people have an innate dynamism. They are assimilative, adjustable and pragmatic. The Indian ways of life and philosophy running all through the ages have made them so. They are unexpectedly found living decently and doing well in different parts of the world indifferent capacities. They may be alone as family doctors in the interiors of China or one-third of the whole population of a country as in south Africa. Then the Indians to Mrs. Buck are "a memorable people. Dramatic and passionate and fond of dramatic lives."

The influence of Indian ways of life is being pervasive within a few years of her independence. She has made a mark on the international scene through her superior individuals. Nehru turned out to be a great and noble leader. An Indian woman became the president of the General Assembly of the U.N. An Indian army general did exemplary impartial work in effecting exchange of prisoners in Korea. The newly emerged independent India has been full of quiet confidence based on her unyielding idealism. Mrs. Buck came to see the spirit of India as reflected in the young intellectuals of Indian cities and in the peasants of Indian villages. She met the young intellectuals about the second world war period. She found them seething with anger for their British rulers, who had bluffed India during the First World War and were likely to do the same after this war. So they wanted that India should be given freedom first and then she would decide in what way and from what side she would fight that war. But the savageries and aggressions of Nazism, Fascism and Japanese adventurism forced India to fight the war from the side of the Allies and not from the side of the Axis. India had enough wisdom to choose civilization rather than barbarism. And despite Churchill's prediction of blood-baths, the saner leaders of Britain gave India her freedom. There was no other option left to the British because the Freedom Movement under the banner of Mahatma Gandhi involved all sectors of the people, indeed the whole nation and this peoples non-violent war proved more powerful than the bloody wars mankind had seen so far.

And the message behind this Movement is of crucial significance. Mrs. Buck thinks that the Americans have not fully understood this message, though beside India's "mighty triumph of a bloodless revolution our war of Independence shrinks in size and concept". The great lesson of India's Freedom Movement has total relevance to the present world. It triumphantly states that war and killing achieve nothing but loss and

destruction. So noble non-violent means must be used to achieve noble ends.

Coming to the pitiable condition of India as a result of British colonialism, Mrs. Buck says that Indian intellectuals despite their immense abilities and calibres had been left languishing. All top positions went to white Englishmen though they were second rate or even worse. So the country was in ferment because these highly educated competent and cultured people shaped the mood of the nation. However, the worst effects of British Imperialism were most obvious in India's miserable villages. The condition of the Indian peasants was worse than that of the Chinese peasants. This was very much like the condition of the Russian peasants before the Bolshevik Revolution. But Russian peasants were culturally much inferior to the Indian peasants. Indian peasants were very much like the Chinese in being "innately civilized". Indian culture has been maturing through the age and it has been stable because it is based on intact family life. Above all India's pragmatic and philosophical religions have shaped the mind and soul of the Indians. So even the illiterate Indian peasants have been innately civilized. Under British rule India was sucked white people's life-span was of 27 years only. Their children were deformed, diseased and died too young. The rickety big-bellied and skeletal babies with sunk dark eyes were the worst indictment of the British imperialism. The authoress is amazed that the English in some ways the finest people on Earth could be so diabolically corrupted by colonialism. But imperialists do not work for the welfare of people. They rather sit on their backs and demoralize them. People are made to tolerate the worst on one excuse or other.

Coming to the shining bright culture of the Indian masses, Mrs. Buck finds in them reverence for great men and women intact. By great men and women they mean people of sacrifice and renunciation. Gandhiji has been the most supreme example of such people dedicated to the service and welfare of



people. Such people the authoress found in India's villages. One such person elderly man crippled by paralysis. He lived in a cage-like compartment in the courtyard of the family. He was always surrounded by people who came to be enlightened by his wisdom. This sacrificial mode of life was common in India even now. was an

The old idyllic life continued in the villages. There was caste system no doubt. There was also crankish behaviour of people in matters of religion and worship. But they were mostly harmless. The worst aspects of religion were there too including fanaticism. But by and large the religious ways of life had not corrupted or poisoned the social life. Above all the spirit of self-sacrifice was very much present. Where as others including the Christian made compro- mises with the idealism of their mission, the simple unsophisticated Indians stood firm in supporting their idealism and paid in full measure the price involved in their inflexible attachment to it. So whereas the Christian Missionaries had failed to effect brotherhood of man that Christ preached, the simple poor Indian masses by their sheer sacrifice had implemented their innate idealism in the practical life of their society to a great extent. Buck is blame for India's poverty

### **Q. 10. Who according to Pearl S. and backwardness?**

**Ans.** Pearl S. Buck came to India in the period just before and after India's independence. In that period India was what the British rulers had made her. She found India in a pitiable condition. The condition of the villages in particular was very deplorable. People suffered from poverty and starvation. The fertile land stretching from Bombay to Madras was dry and without crops due to lack of irrigation facilities. What to say of artesian wells there were not even shallow wells. The people themselves could have done something about it. But centuries of colonialism had taken all strength and vitality out of them. They were sunk in sloth and idleness. They were full of excuses for not working and remaining helpless, spectators all the time. They blamed the Britishers for all the ills of their society. They thought that their

British rulers had taken all the responsibilities to feed and clothe them. If they suffered and died of hunger and disease it was the fault of the foreign government. The people in themselves were not responsible for it. Such behaviour of the people showed that the colonialism of centuries had made them lose their heart and their spirit. So ultimately the British imperialists were responsible for this all- round degradation and backwardness of India and her people.

**Q. 11. What lesson has India to teach the world?**

**Ans.** Pearl S. Buck has a very high opinion of India and Indian people. She is impressed to see the good effects of India's Freedom Movement and of her superior individuals like Gandhiji and Nehru on the whole world within a few years of her independence. The Indian Freedom Movement has been a momentous event of the modern age. It was the triumphs of a bloodless revolution. In Mrs. Buck's opinion it was far superior to the American war of Independence. The great Indian Freedom movement was carried forward on certain lofty and noble principles. There was the stress on the purity of both the end and the means to achieve it. The world must learn this great lesson and must use such noble methods to tackle problems.

The other significant lesson that India has to teach the world is her conception of great men and leaders. In Indian way of life only those people are taken to be good who practise self-renunciation and not self-gratification. They renounce personal benefit for the sake of ideals. This noble conception of greatness and goodness is all-pervading in India. Even bad and wicked persons seek such selfless people to be their guide and example. The Indian good men including common people are ever ready to pay the price for their idealism.

**Q. 12. What were the things to impress the writer in Indian villages?**

**Ans.** Pearl S. Buck came to India to meet and listen to the city intellectuals and the village peasants. She went to some villages and was very much impressed by the ways of life of common people. She found that the ancient philosophical ideas were still moulding the mind and heart of people. The simple villagers thought only those persons good who practised self-renunciation and not self-seeking. Such persons sacrificed their self-gratification for the over-all welfare of people. The great lessons of self-detachment and self-renunciation showed their presence in the villages. A clear example is that of the elderly man living in a cage-like enclosure. He was suffering from paralysis and could not sit properly, yet he was available all the time for helping people with his wisdom and knowledge. People surrounded him all through the day. He had been a selfless wise man all his life. He devoted himself to the service and welfare of the villagers. The younger brother of that man tells the writer, "My brother has always been, our wise man. Now he is our saint". Even the common people had this self-sacrificial trait in them. The younger brother stopped taking his meal and went to kill a snake that had made people panicky. This idyllic picture of Indian villages may not appear true now. But it was very much this when Mrs. Buck visited India over fifty years back. These things and the over-all simple and peaceful life of the villages impressed her very much.

**Q. 13. What evidence of cleanliness did pearl Buck find in the Indian villages ?**

**Ans.** Pearl Buck made journeys to some Indian villages. Her hosts were important well-to-do and educated persons. So her impression of the Indian village life is not fully realistic. The writer is so much in love with India and her people and their ways of life that she sees only the bright side of things. In the matter of cleanliness she is very much impressed by Indian people's cleanliness. Even the paralytic man was very neat and clean. His cotton garments were snow-white She also saw in her host's house clean homespun towel to cleanse the hands. What impressed the writer most in this

respect was the custom of taking boiled rice on green banana leaves rather than in plates. She felt that this was a very clean habit. The rice piled on such green leaves was pleasant to look at. It also stimulated appetite. Again the writer thought the habit of taking food with right hand a very clean habit. To begin with, the right hand is reserved for doing good work where as the left hand is for doing lowly works. So the right hand is all along clean. Still it is washed before it is used for lifting food. All these showed Mrs. Buck that Indian villagers were clean people.